

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7530

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3916

FROM ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, PORG, GT, CR, HO, ES, NU

SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING IN GUATEMALA

1. THE MINECONS OF THE FIVE CAS BEGAN THEIR 14TH MEETING, AT SIECA HEADQUARTERS IN GUATEMALA CITY, ON JULY 24. THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSES OF THE MEETING ARE: A) TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE 7TH AND 8TH MEETINGS OF THE VICE MINISTERS OF ECONOMY; B) TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED NEW COMMON CENTRAL AMERICAN TARIFF SCHEDULE; C) TO CONSIDER JOINT CENTRAL AMERICAN REPRESENTATION AT MULTILATERAL TRADE FORUMS, (E.G. THE CURRENT MTN IN GENEVA); D) TO STUDY THE ENTERING INTO FORCE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONVENTION ON INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY; AND E) "OTHER MATTERS LINKED TO CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION".

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2. ON JULY 25TH THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS WILL MEET AGAIN AT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (ICAITI) IN THEIR CAPACITY AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ICAITI. THIS MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST THAT THE MINISTERS HAVE HELD IN THIS CAPACITY FOR OVER FOUR YEARS. IT IS EXPECTED TO LEND NEW IMPETUS TO ICAITI'S CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE FUNCTIONS IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

3. ON JULY 26TH THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS OF CENTRAL AMERICA WILL HOLD A THIRD MEETING, ALSO IN GUATEMALA. THIS WILL BE AN INFORMAL GATHERING WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE CENPORAL AMERICAN HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE FOR THE PERFECTING AND RESTRUCTURING OF THE C.A. COMMON MARKET (CAN). THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO "EXCHANGE IMPRESSIONS ON THE PROGRESS TO DATE ON DRAFTING A NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN GENERAL TREATY".

4. COMMENT: THE THREE MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN THE ACCELERATED PACE OF ATTEMPTS AT EXPANDED CENTRAL AMERICAN REGIONAL COOPERATION, IF NOT INTEGRATION. WITH REGARD TO THE THIRD, INFORMAL, MEETING, WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE CAN, IT IS EXPECTED THAT GUATEMALA AND NICARGUA WILL VIGOROUSLY PURSUE A CHANRDD EMPHASIS FOR THE PROPOSED TREATY. THIS EMPHASIS WILL PROBABLY CALL FOR A TREATY WITH HORIZONS, SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIMITED THAN THOSE WHICH HAD HERETOFORE BEEN UNDER STUDY. RATHER THAN APPROACHING THE FAR REACHING CHANGES EMBODIED IN THE DRAFT WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY SIECA FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CAN, THE GUATMALAN AND INCARAGUAN CONCEPT WOULD ELIMINATE ALL SUPRANATIONAL IMPLICATIONS WHATEVER, AND ESCHEWH ROPOSALS OF ANY CHANGES IN THE CURRENT JURIDICAL STATUS. THIS CONCEPT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION WOULD NOT DIFFER VERY MUCH FROM THE SCOPE OF THE CURRENT GENERAL TREATY OF 1961. UNDER IT, HOWEVER, THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD PURSUE ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION SUCH AS THOSE EMBODIED IN THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED IN THE MAY 28-30 MEETING OF THE ECLA COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA (CCE). THESE ARE THE PROPOSALS THAT WERE ACCORDED UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENTIAL BACKING IN THE MEETING OF CHIEFS OF STATE IN LIBERIA, COSTA RICA ON JULY 10.

5. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS "LIMITED HORIZONS" CONCEPT WILL BE VIGOUROUSLY BUT UNSUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED BY EL SALVADOR AND COSTA RICA. EL SALVADOR HAS LONG ESPOUSED A COMPLETELY NEW AND FAR REACHING CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY, INCLUDING SPECIFIC CESSION OF

SIGNIFICANT ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS TO A MULTINATIONAL COUNCIL. COSTA RICA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS FREQUENTLY INSISTED ON THE NEED FOR A GREATER C.A. COMMUNITY CONCERN WITH SOCIAL ISSUES, AND A BREAKING OUT FROM THE LIMITED COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SPHERES.

6. WE WOULD EXPECT THE GUATEMALAN-NICARAGUAN CONCEPT TO PREVAIL, BECAUSE IT IS MORE CLOSELY ATTUNED TO CURRENT CENTRAL AMERICAN POLITICAL REALITIES. TRAGEN

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